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STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MIGNON CLYBURN ON THE FCC'S EFFORTS TO EXPAND DIGITAL LITERACY TRAINING & CLOSE ADOPTION GAP

I commend Chairman Genachowski for his eagerness to tackle a problem that continues to plague America. The hesitancy that individuals and families have in embracing the incredible benefits of broadband is a barrier that must be overcome, and I made it a central part of my mission at the FCC.

Almost every day, I learn about a new service that is only available online or a great new Internet site that will make my life easier in some way. However, opportunities like these are inconsequential to tens of millions of individuals in this nation, as they have yet to realize the power and life-changing aspects of broadband. Cost, relevance, stubbornness, and apathy all play a role, but the lack of basic computer and Internet literacy is a central and intimidating barrier, especially among seniors, rural residents, and in lower-income areas.

The Chairman has smartly chosen to enlist organizations that are close to these communities and will spread the word regarding the empowerment and life-changing aspects of broadband connectivity. I am ready to assist him in doing so, and applaud him for this bold initiative.

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